



News

www.hs.utah.gov

Statement

Sept. 29, 2003

Contact

Carol Sisco (801) 538-3991

Division Of Child And Family Services Statement Regarding Parker Jensen Sept. 29, 2003

Saving Parker's life has been DCFS' goal ever since we started working with the Jensen family. DCFS wants to assure that Parker Jensen receives the best possible treatment and care. We will continue to work with his family to help that happen. DCFS has helped the Jensens obtain additional medical opinions and attempted to help the family have their treatment concerns adequately addressed.

In early September, DCFS, the Guardian ad Litem and the Jensens reached a Stipulated Agreement that Parker would be seen by a physician chosen by the Jensens. The Jensens agreed both in writing and in Juvenile Court that they would follow the doctor's treatment recommendations, even if that recommendation was chemotherapy. This Stipulated Agreement essentially mirrored an agreement reached by the parties in July 2003. The Jensens chose Dr. Martin Johnston, who last week recommended chemotherapy. The Jensens, however, have now stated they will not abide by the Stipulated Agreement.

This places DCFS at a crossroads. DCFS could ask the Juvenile Court to place Parker in DCFS custody and attempt to force chemotherapy. DCFS will not pursue that option. The chemotherapy recommended by Dr. Johnston requires 11 months of treatment. Such treatment is rigorous and success requires both the cooperation and proper mind-set of Parker and his parents. Without such cooperation, forcing Parker to undergo chemotherapy is not a workable treatment option.

DCFS is only one party in this matter. The Guardian ad Litem or the Juvenile Court may require Parker to be placed in DCFS custody and order the chemotherapy to proceed. Such an order, however, will not be sought by DCFS.

###